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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Mark T. Wajer, et al

Serial No. 09/769,761

Group Art Unit: 1731

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Examiner: S. Alvo

For: PROCESS EMPLOYING MAGNESIUM HYDROXIDE IN PEROXIDE BLEACHING
OF MECHANICAL PULP

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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AMENDMENT

Responsive to the Office Action dated December 14, 2001, the following is hereby
submitted:

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 16 & 32 as follows:

16B

1. (amended) A process of making a bleached mechanical wood pulp comprising:
providing an aqueous slurry of mechanical wood pulp;
combining the mechanical wood pulp with a bleaching mixture comprising
hydrogen peroxide and a magnesium compound selected from the group consisting of
magnesium hydroxide, magnesium oxide and mixtures thereof, to form a bleaching pulp mixture;
and
maintaining the bleaching pulp mixture at a pH of 8.5 or less for a time sufficient to
produce the bleached mechanical wood pulp.

2. A process according to claim 1, wherein the bleaching mixture also comprises up
to about 0.5 wt. % based on pulp dry mass of a chelating agent.

3. A process according to claim 2, wherein the chelating agent is selected from the
group consisting of diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, N-(2-